

Salem Communications of Camarillo, CA has recently announced the purchase of two radio stations in the Omaha area, the only two Omaha Christian stations. They are KGBI-FM and KCRO-AM. Salem is now operating these stations on a day-to-day basis.

KGBI-FM is a station formerly operated by Grace University in Omaha, and featured a mix of music and talk content - including preaching - with a certain small amount of local programming.

KCRO-AM, formerly operated by Eternal Broadcasting and Waitt Media, was a talk-only format, and featured, at various times, as much as 6 hours per day of local content.

Since Salem has taken over the operation of those two stations, it has eliminated all talk programming from KGBI, making all music all day, and has eliminated all of the Monday-Friday local talk content from KCRO radio, and replaced it with national programs, many of which repeat throughout the day.

For instance, Jame's Dobson's "Focus On The Family" show is run three times per day. "Janet Parshall's America" is run for 6 hours per day, once as a repeat.

Our church had a contract with KCRO radio for one year of broadcasting with a second year as an option to renew. KCRO Radio under Eternal Broadcasting illegally suspended our broadcast for unstated reasons, and we have previously complained to you about that behavior. We believe that Dick Chapin of Eternal Broadcasting was merely holding the prize 660 frequency as a broker against the future sale of the station to media conglomerates such as Waitt Radio, and Salem Broadcasting.

We are greatly disturbed by the ability of Salem Broadcasting to acquire virtually the entire local Christian radio broadcast audience, remove all local broadcast content, and fill the airwaves with their few close partners in preaching, talk, and political commentary.

I contacted the chief legal counsel of Salem, a certain Mr. Block, who informed me that Salem had acquired only the assets of KCRO radio, and therefore have no obligations to honor our contractual arrangements. We do not consider that the licensed frequencies allow them such cavalier treatment of our contractual arrangements, or such disdain for local broadcasts from local people to local people.

We thought these were our airwaves.

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